

DRAFT PUBLIC ELECTIONS (JERSEY) LAW 200- (P.132/2001): SECOND AMENDMENT

**Lodged au Greffe on 25th September 2001
by Deputy P.F.C. Ozouf of St. Helier**



STATES OF JERSEY

STATES GREFFE

180

2001

P.132 Amd.(2)

Price code: A

DRAFT PUBLIC ELECTIONS (JERSEY) LAW 200- (P.132/2001): SECOND AMENDMENT

PAGE 25, ARTICLE 7(7) -

For the paragraph there shall be substituted the following paragraph -

“(7) If a Connétable thinks that a person who is entitled to have his name included on the register for an electoral district has not been the subject of a statement returned or application made under this Article when he should have been, the Connétable shall send to that person a notice reminding him of his duties under this Article. The Connétable shall send another such notice if, one month after the first notice was sent, the person has still not been the subject of a statement returned or application made under this Article and no response has been made to the first notice.”.

DEPUTY P.F.C. OZOUF OF ST. HELIER

REPORT

This amendment seeks to place an obligation on the Connétable to follow up non-returned franchise forms. The starting point for the democratic process is ensuring that all those entitled to vote are registered. The research carried out by myself and Deputy J.A. Bridge of St. Helier showed that there were a considerable number of people who were entitled to vote but who had not registered. The bulk of the amendments proposed by the Legislation Committee will improve registration statistics, but by comparison with best practice, do not go far enough.

Whilst voting is a choice, registration is a right. This amendment requires the Connétable to follow up forms that have not been returned for whatever reason. This is the practice followed in a number of jurisdictions, including the United Kingdom.

Manpower implications

With the use of information technology, this amendment should not have manpower implications, as the lists of people who have not returned forms should be generated automatically.

Finance implications

The additional costs are the franchise and stationery costs of sending out the reminders.